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The Gingerbread Man

a Little Golden Book

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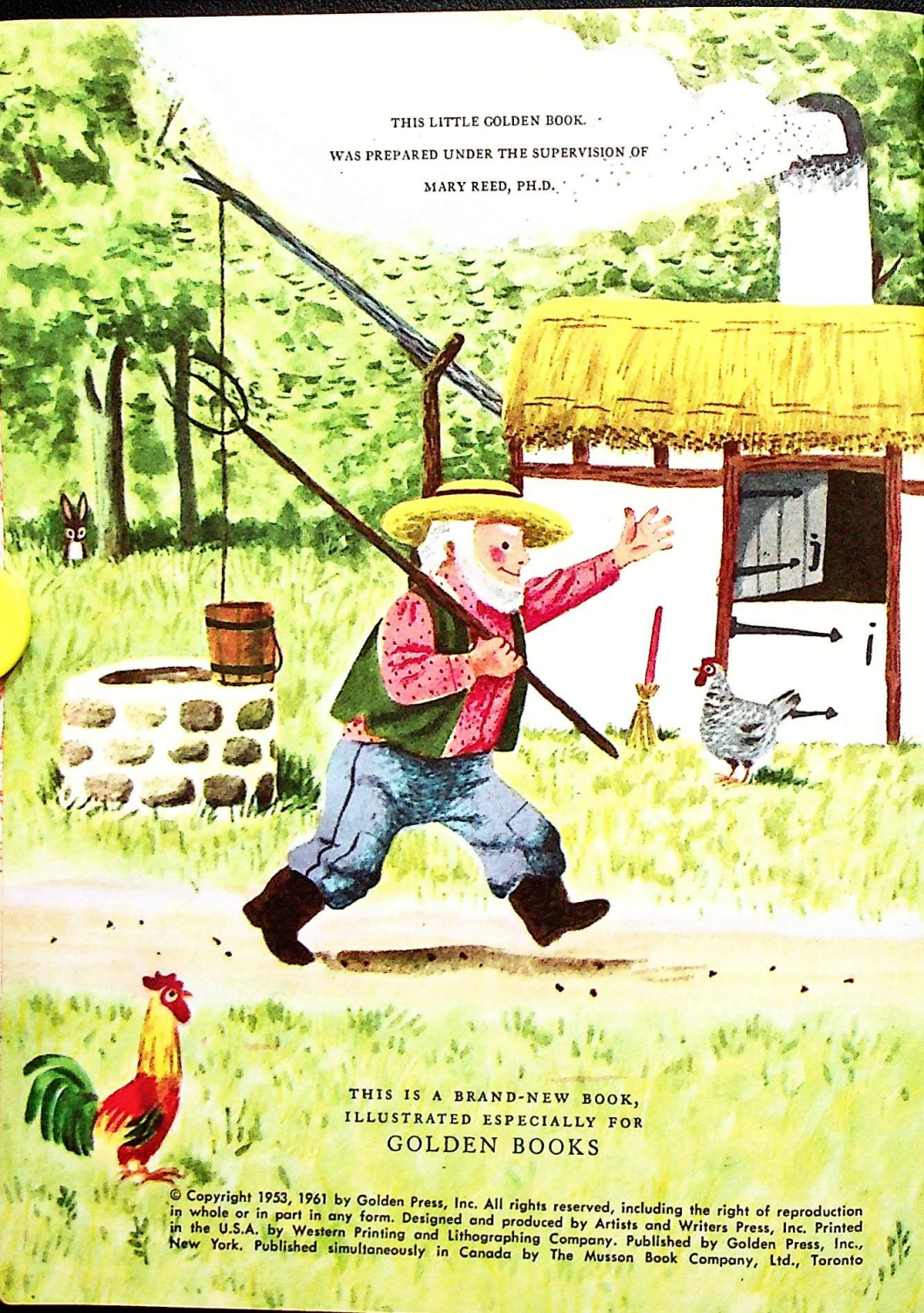
THE GINGERBREAD MAN

Told by Nancy Nolte

Pictures by Richard Scarry

GOLDEN PRESS • NEW YORK



THIS LITTLE GOLDEN BOOK
WAS PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
MARY REED, PH.D.

THIS IS A BRAND-NEW BOOK,
ILLUSTRATED ESPECIALLY FOR
GOLDEN BOOKS

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ONCE upon a time a little old man and a little old woman lived in a neat little house in a wood.

Every day the little old woman baked wonderful cookies and cakes and pies for the little old man. One day she decided to bake something special for him.

So she made a beautiful gingerbread man! He had raisins for eyes, a currant for his nose, and a pink sugar-candy waistcoat.

She popped him into the oven to bake.

When he was done, the little old woman took him out of the oven, laid him on the table to cool, and went out in the yard to water the flowers.

As soon as she was out of sight, the gingerbread man sat up on the table. Seeing that no one was around, he climbed down and ran out the door and away down the path.

CORN

The little old woman and the little old man saw him.

"Stop! Stop!" they cried.

But the gingerbread man only laughed and called over his shoulder.

"Run, run as fast as you can.

You can't catch me—

I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

And with that he ran even faster, with the little old woman and the little old man running behind him.

When a gentle brown cow saw the gingerbread man, running down the road, she thought how good he would taste. So she cried,

"Stop, Stop."

But the gingerbread man only laughed:

"Run, run as fast as you can.
You can't catch me—
I'm the Gingerbread Man!
I got away from the little old woman and the little old man,
And I can get away from you,
I can, I can."

And he ran faster than ever, with the little old woman, the little old man, and the gentle brown cow after him.

Then he saw a big brown bear eating honey from a tree, and he knew that he would have to run even faster.

When the bear smelled the wonderful gingery smell, he thought how good the gingerbread man would taste with his honey. So the bear cried, "Stop! Stop!"

But the gingerbread man drew a deep breath and laughed and cried out:

"Run, run as fast as you can.
You can't catch me—
I'm the Gingerbread Man!
I got away from the little old woman,
the little old man, and the gentle
brown cow,
And I can get away from you,
I can, I can."

And on he ran, with the little old woman, the little old man, the gentle brown cow, and the big brown bear all running after him.

At last the gingerbread man saw a river before him and he did not know how he could cross it. But a wily red fox was sitting near the river, and when he saw the gingerbread man, he decided that he would eat him.

As the gingerbread man ran up to the river's edge, the wily red fox came out to meet him.

"Jump on my tail and I will carry you across the river," he called to the gingerbread man.

"If I do, you will eat me," said the gingerbread man.

"Oh, no!" declared the fox. "I don't like gingerbread."

So the gingerbread man jumped on the fox's tail, and the fox waded into the river.

But soon the water grew so deep that it lapped about the toes of the little gingerbread man.

"Fox!" he said. "I am getting wet."

"Jump on my back!" cried the wily red fox.

The gingerbread man jumped on the fox's back, but again the water started to lap about the gingerbread man's feet.

"Fox!" he said again. "I am getting wet."

"Jump on my head," cried the fox.

The gingerbread man jumped to the fox's head, but the water was soon creeping up.

"Jump on my nose," said the wily red fox.

The gingerbread man jumped onto the fox's nose, and—snip! snip! the fox gobbled him up!

And that is just what should happen to all gingerbread men!

How many of these LITTLE GOLDEN BOOKS have you read?

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317. More Mother Goose
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342. Exploring Space
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358. Baby's First Book
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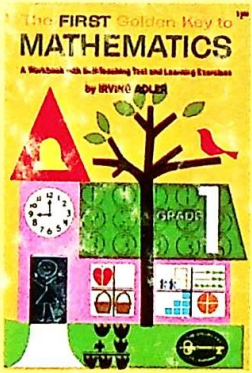

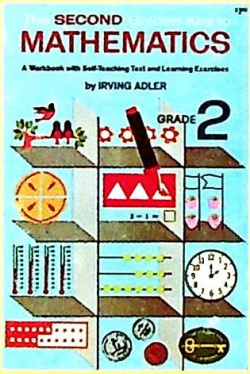

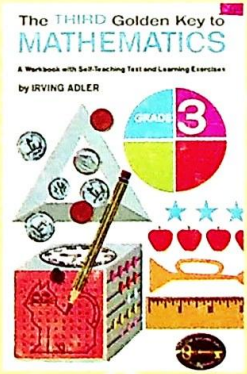

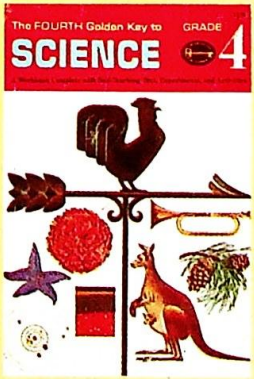

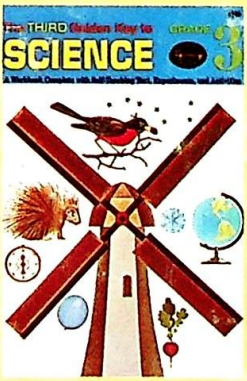

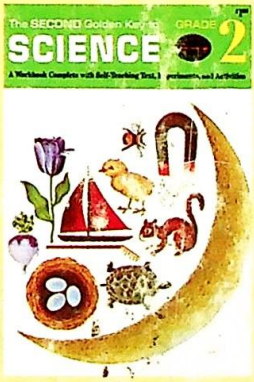

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